

Mr. Speaker, Lonnie Thompson's accomplishments are of the highest order and support the needs of the Department of Defense for today and tomorrow. Mr. Thompson's leadership and commitment is what we recognize and honor today.

RECOGNITION OF BILL CHENEY,  
NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTOR ON  
THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL  
CREDIT UNIONS

**HON. HENRY BONILLA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2000*

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Bill Cheney, the President and CEO of Xerox Federal Credit Union, headquartered in El Segundo, California, for his recent election to the board of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU). I have had the pleasure of knowing Bill for over 16 years, many of which he spent in my congressional district at Security Service Federal Credit Union in San Antonio, Texas. During that time, we spent many years working together on issues that affect the citizens of the 23rd Congressional District of Texas. Bill also shares my life-long commitment to supporting all athletes at the University of Texas at Austin.

Even though Bill left San Antonio to become President and CEO at Xerox Federal Credit Union, he continues to keep me updated on credit union views. He even makes it back to Texas from time to time to visit Xerox Federal Credit Union offices. Xerox Federal Credit Union, which has over 73,000 members, serves employees of Xerox Corporation and related companies nationwide through 16 credit union offices in 9 states including California, New York, Illinois, and Texas.

His election to the NAFCU board culminates 15 years of dedicated work in the credit union industry. I congratulate my friend Bill Cheney on his recent election to the NAFCU Board and look forward to continuing to work with him and America's credit unions. I know Bill will be an outstanding voice for credit unions everywhere.

SUPREME COURT SECURITY ACT  
OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2000*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as indicated by my colleague, H.R. 5136 would make permanent the authority of the U.S. Supreme Court Police to provide security for its Justices, Court employees, and official visitors on and off the Supreme Court grounds. The U.S. Supreme Court Police were first authorized by Congress to carry firearms and protect court personnel and visitors outside Supreme Court grounds in 1982. The statutory authorization was scheduled to terminate on December 29, 1985. In December 1985, the Congress extended such authorization and has done so five additional times in

the subsequent years. The last extension occurred in October 1996, and is set to expire December 29, 2000.

It is clear that the security concerns which gave rise to the original authorization, including threats of violence against the Justices and the Court, will continue for the foreseeable future. In addition, I am not aware of any suggestion or concern that the U.S. Supreme Court Police has misused its authority, or should not be entitled to such authority on a permanent basis.

In fact the evidence suggests that the U.S. Supreme Court Police has discharged its responsibilities in an efficient and cost effective manner. For example, the cost of the program has been minimal. The Supreme Court Police work closely with the U.S. Marshal's office to provide security for Supreme Court Justices when they travel outside the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Over the past 4 years, there were 74 requests for Supreme Court Police protection beyond the D.C. metropolitan area at a total cost of \$16,855, or \$4,214 per year.

In light of continuing security concerns, and the Supreme Court Police's record of providing appropriate protection over the past 18 years for the Justices, Court employees, and official visitors, I support making the Supreme Court Police authorization to provide security on and off Supreme court grounds permanent. As a result, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

A TRIBUTE TO GAIL WEISS

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2000*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleagues this evening to recognize the long, distinguished career of Gail Weiss. Gail, who serves so ably now as the Minority Staff Director on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and before that as Staff Director of that Committee, had earlier served as Staff Director of our Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, chaired by my good colleague, the gentleman from Missouri, Mr. CLAY. Serving as the Ranking Minority Member of the Post Office Committee at that time, I had the opportunity to work closely with Gail. I found her to be a true professional and I appreciated the time she took to listen to our positions on various issues before our Committee.

We will surely miss having Gail's experience and institutional memory upon which to rely. Gail is one of a dwindling corps of staff who have the ability to put the measures before us into the perspective of earlier legislation enacted to address important issues. Her expertise on postal and civil service issues and those before the Committee on Education and the Workforce have helped us to develop legislative initiatives that address these issues in an effective manner.

I am certain that Gail will continue to be active in a number of areas that are of keen interest to her. I know that our colleagues will also continue to reach out to her for her thoughts on key matters that we deal with in the Congress. I've certainly become fond of both Gail and her husband Jack and wish

them great success, happiness, and good health as they enter this new and rewarding time in their lives.

TRIBUTE TO ITALIAN GARDENS  
RESTAURANT

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 11, 2000*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Kansas City, Missouri family tradition. Seventy-five years ago a small, family owned business established its roots in the heart of Kansas City. Today, the Italian Gardens Restaurant is a well established and celebrated Kansas City landmark and popular eatery.

The late John Bondon, Sr., first opened the Italian Gardens Restaurant in 1925 with his nephew Frank Lipari. It was a difficult time for the partners and most of the country as the economy collapsed and a world war became a reality. Despite these challenges Italian Gardens persevered and in 1933 the restaurant was able to move to its current location at 1110 Baltimore with the help of a \$1,500 loan from a waitress. John Bondon and Frank Lipari owned only one new pair of shoes worn by whomever was working with the public in the front of the restaurant. When America entered World War II, the Italian Gardens recognized the anti-Italian sentiments present at this time and was forced to temporarily change the name of the restaurant to "The Gardens." The restaurant was available for dinner only since many of the staff was working in the defense industry.

Over the past 75 years, the Italian Gardens has spanned five generations of family proprietorship and attracted a large and loyal following of patrons. The restaurant has attracted a diverse crowd of customers such as Joe Di Maggio, Katherine Hepburn, Frank Sinatra, Liberace, and the famed outlays Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow. For seventy-five years the Italian Gardens has been known by businessmen, artists, athletes, and neighbors to be a large community table and gathering place where everyone is made to feel welcome and part of the family.

Throughout their rich heritage the Italian Gardens Restaurant has been a significant charitable and civic contributor to our community, including lending the talents and expertise of its executives to critical boards and commissions benefitting the Greater Kansas City Area. The Italian Gardens family includes the now retired Carl DiCapo, John Bondon, president of the restaurant company, and great-nephew of the original co-founder, Bondon's mother, Carolyn Berbiglia, Bondon's wife, Vicki, and his daughter Bianca. The Italian Gardens is a Kansas City landmark that has served as a model of success in our community. It is one of the few longtime family owned operations still present in our region. This cherished local eatery has established a standard of excellence that will continue to be celebrated for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Italian Gardens Restaurant family as it celebrates seventy-five years of service to the Kansas City community.